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**BITS**  
**OF**  
**OLD BROOKLYN.**

PRESENTED BY

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J. A. DAVIDSON & CO.

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COAL

AND

WOOD.

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Court and Pacific Sts.

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Bond nr. Degraw St., Gowanus Canal.

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N. Y. Office, 50 Leonard St.

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Connected by Private Telephone.

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## BROOKLYN IN 1776.

Near "the Ferry" a few houses were clustered around the old ferry tavern, but the whole number of dwellings in this portion of the town at that time scarcely exceeded fifty. Along "the Heights," whose precipitous banks were covered with goodly groves of cedars, were a few private residences, among which that of Philip Livingston, afterwards known as the "Joralemon House," was most conspicuous for size and elegance; while the whole of that now thickly builded portion of the city embraced between the East River, Joralemon and Fulton Streets was occupied by thrifty fruit orchards, extensive market gardens and choice pasture lands.

Along the shores of the East River were scattered the substantial farm houses of old Dutch families.

Nearly a mile and a half back from the ferry, and in the middle of the road to Jamaica, stood the ancient stone church, around which was gathered the village of Brooklyn proper. Another mile and a quarter beyond, on the same road, a few farm houses formed the neighborhood known, then as now, as Bedford.

In 1710 the city watch consisted of four men, who went about the town crying the hour of the night and the season of the weather, annual expenso £36, exclusive of fire and light in the watch house, and the cost of lanthorns and hour glasses (which then served the place of watches) for the watchmen.

## OUR COURT STREET YARD

Is on the site of a steep conical hill (afterwards levelled), known as Cobble Hill, upon which was a fort of three guns, known in Revolutionary times as "Ponkiesbergh," or "Cobble Hill Fort." Its trenches ascended spirally to the top, where a platform was laid for the cannon, from which circumstance it derived its nickname of "Corkscrew Fort."

From this position Washington, Putnam and other generals witnessed the terrible struggles on the Gowanus Creek, of the Americans against the British.

It commanded Fort Stirling, on the edge of the Heights, between the present Orange and Clark streets; and on that account was made lower by the British, during their subsequent occupation, for fear that it might fall into the hands of the Continentals, in which case Fort Stirling would have been untenable.

During the war of 1812 the fort was rebuilt and strengthened, and named "Fort Swift," after Gen. J. G. Swift, under whose superintendence it was reconstructed.

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STANDARD ANTHRACITE COAL,

## FERRY REGULATIONS IN 1654.

The ferryman shall always keep proper servants and boats, and a lodge on both sides of the river, to protect passengers from the weather.

The ferryman cannot be compelled to ferry anything over before he is paid.

The hours of the ferry shall be from 5 o'clock A. M. to 8 P. M. in Summer, provided the windmill (on the battery at Manhattans) hath not taken in its sail; after this last-mentioned hour, double ferriage.

From 7 o'clock A. M. to 5 o'clock P. M. in Winter, but he is not to be obliged to ferry during a tempest, or when the windmill hath lowered its sail, in consequence of storm or otherwise.

The ferryman is to be allowed :	<i>Fl.</i>	<i>St.</i>
For each cart or wagon with two horses or oxen,	2	10
For one cart or wagon with one horse.	-	2
For one pig, sheep, buck or goat,	-	-
For two, eight stuivers, and what is above that, each,	-	3
For two or more persons, each one,	-	3
For a child under ten years, half fare.		
For one horse, or four-footed horned beast,	1	10
For one hogshead of tobacco,	-	16
For one ton of beer,	-	16
For one anker of wine or liquor,	-	6
For a tub of butter, soap or such like,	-	6
For a mud (4 bushels) of grain,	-	4

## THE “FERRY TAVERN”

was situated on the north side of Fulton street, near the corner of Front, the river at that time coming nearly up to the latter street. The tavern was a large and gloomy stone building, about sixty feet square and two stories in height. It was owned by the corporation of the city of New York, and known as “Corporation House.” A ferry house had been erected on this site in 1746, on ground purchased in 1694. The first house was burned in 1748, and the Corporation House erected in its place.

Before the Revolution the tavern was kept by Capt. Adolph Waldron, who was also ferrymaster. On the breaking out of the war, Waldron took the Federal side, and was succeeded by Charles Loosely and Thomas Elms, who named it the “King’s Head.”

Lient. Ambury, of the British Army, in a letter to a friend in England, dated New York, October 30, 1781, says : “On crossing the East River from New York, you land at Brooklyn, which is a scattered village, consisting of a few houses. At this place is an excellent tavern where parties are made to go and eat fish ; the landlord of which has saved an immense fortune during the war.”

This tavern was the headquarters of royalists and tories, and was subsequently known as “Brooklyn Hall”

OAK AND HICKORY WOOD,

## OUR GOWANUS CANAL YARD

Is within a stone's throw of the site of the oldest mill in "Breukelen," which was called "Freeke's Mill," or the "Old Gowanus Mill," built in the year 1661. The mill pond was formed by damming off the head of Gowanus creek, and the old mill was located between Sackett and Union, Nevins and Bond streets. The head of the dam was about at the junction of what is now Bond and Warren streets.

The memorable battle of Long Island occurred in this immediate vicinity. The bloodiest conflict took place after the Americans had left the Flatbush Pass. The place of severest conflict was a little east of the junction of Flatbush avenue and Atlantic street. In the disastrous retreat that followed, some of the larger bodies of troops struggled through the salt morasses and across the narrow causeway of Freeke's mill, while the Hessians opened a destructive fire from some guns posted on the hills, near Ninth avenue.

Ere evening drew its pall around the battle field, fully one half of the five thousand patriot army which had that morning gone forth to battle for their country, were dead, wounded or imprisoned.

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LYKENS VALLEY COAL FOR GRATES.

STANDARD QUALITIES OF

**COAL,**

Lehigh and Locust Mountain,

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English and American  
Cannel,

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Lykens Valley, Red Ash.

OAK AND VIRGINIA PINE,  
FOR  
**KINDLING.**

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Hickory Wood,  
CUT TO SUIT  
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and Andirons.

## FROM OLD NEWSPAPERS.

1668—"Liberal Reward. On July 8th, the house of Widow Rapelye, Brooklyn Ferry, was broken open and robbed of one gold ring, marked "M. D.", heart in hand ; seven silver spoons, marked "J. R. D." ; one pair gold sleeve buttons ; two Johannesses ; one doubloon ; two New York £5 bills : one 40s ; and about £40 in Jersey bills and dollars. The thief was tried and *executed* on the 15th of the same month.

1782—"May 3, on Monday se'nnight the enemy (British) began to break ground to cut a canal on L. I. to run from the Wallabout to the Pond (Freeke's Mill), taking in Cobble Hill Fort. The length of the trench is  $2\frac{1}{4}$  miles. The militia are called out in rotation one day in a week, none above 15 being excused from labor."

1783—"Subscription assemblies at Loosely's Brooklyn Hall every other Thursday during the season, for the gentlemen of the army and navy, public departments and citizens. Half a guinea each night to provide music, tea, coffee, chocolate, negus, sanguaree, lemonade, etc."

1824—February 25th, a flag stone walk was laid from the gate of the old Fulton Ferry to the Steamboat Hotel, a large wooden building which stood on the easterly corner of Fulton and Water streets.

This was the first walk ever laid to the ferry.

**Oak and Virginia Pine**

## SUNDRY ITEMS.

The "*American Gazetteer*" for 1798, thus briefly disposes of Brooklyn: "A township in Kings county, N. Y., on the west end of Long Island, having 1603 inhabitants and 224 are electors, by the State census of 1796. There are a Presbyterian church, a Dutch Reformed church, a powder magazine and some elegant houses, which lie chiefly on one street East River, near a mile broad, separates the town from New York."

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In 1811 there was but one dry goods store in Brooklyn. It was kept by Abraham Remsen, on the corner of Fulton and Front streets.

In the same year a petition was sent to the Legislature for the establishment of a bank in Brooklyn. The great inconvenience of crossing the ferry in bad weather on days when notes fell due is dwelt upon by the petitioners.

Forty years ago corn grew on Montague street, Court street had no existence and the fashionable locality of South Brooklyn was but a dismal sand hill.

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In February, 1832, a contract was made for cleaning the streets for one year for \$400.

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For Kindling Purposes.

## EAST RIVER BRIDGE IN 1800.

"It has been suggested that a bridge should be constructed from this village across the East River to New York. This idea has been treated as chimerical, from the magnitude of the design; but whosoever takes it into their serious consideration, will find more weight in the practicability of the scheme than at first view is imagined. This would be the means of raising the value of the lands on the east side of the river. It has been observed that every objection to the building of this bridge could be refuted, and that it only wanted a combination of opinion to favor the attempt. A plan has already been laid down on paper, and a gentleman of acknowledged abilities and good sense has observed that he would engage to erect it in two years' time."

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Hickory cut to suit

## OLD POST OFFICE NEWS.

The Brooklyn Post Office was established in 1813, on the site of the present Union Argus building. Noel Bunce was the first Postmaster, and (in 1819) Thomas W. Birdsall the second Postmaster. He was succeeded by Erastus Worthington, and the office removed to Fulton street, opposite Hicks, on the site of the present Atlantic Bank. In 1824 the office was held by Mr. Bennett, then by S. E. Clements, and by Joseph Moser. In 1829 Adrian Hegeman was appointed and served twelve years. In 1841 George Hall was appointed and the office was removed to Cranberry street, between Fulton and Henry.

At that time the whole mail force consisted of Postmaster, an assistant, Mr. Simonson, and the mail messenger, Benjamin Richardson, who took the mail twice to New York, and was the only letter carrier of the village.

## Wood Stoves & Andirons.

1881.

## POST OFFICE ITEMS.

Office open from 7 A. M. to 7.30 P. M.

Sundays, from 9 to 10 A. M.

Legal Holidays, from 7 to 10 A. M.

Postage on city letters 2 cents for each half ounce. To all parts of the United States, outside of Brooklyn, 3 cents for each half ounce. Postage to Canada 3 cents per half ounce. England, Ireland, Scotland, France, and Germany 5 cents per half ounce.

On domestic letters at least one full rate must be prepaid or they will not be forwarded, any balance that may be due will be collected at destination.

Canada letters must be fully prepaid or they cannot be forwarded.

Samples or articles of merchandise, in packages, not over 4 pounds in weight, 1 cent per ounce, or fraction thereof, must be *fully* prepaid.

Books and newspapers 1 cent for every two ounces or fraction thereof, also *fully* prepaid.

MONEY ORDERS.—Office open from 9 A. M. to 4 P. M. Registry department open from 8 A. M. to 5 P. M.

GENERAL COLLECTIONS FROM STREET LETTER BOXES begin at 7, 8 and 11 A. M.; 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 2, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  and 9 P. M. Sunday collections begin at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  and 9 P. M.

Letters mailed at the main office up to 12 midnight, or at stations up to 11 P. M., will be forwarded in time for all the early morning trains out of New York.

Connected by Private Telephone.

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J. A. DAVIDSON & CO.

**COAL and WOOD,**

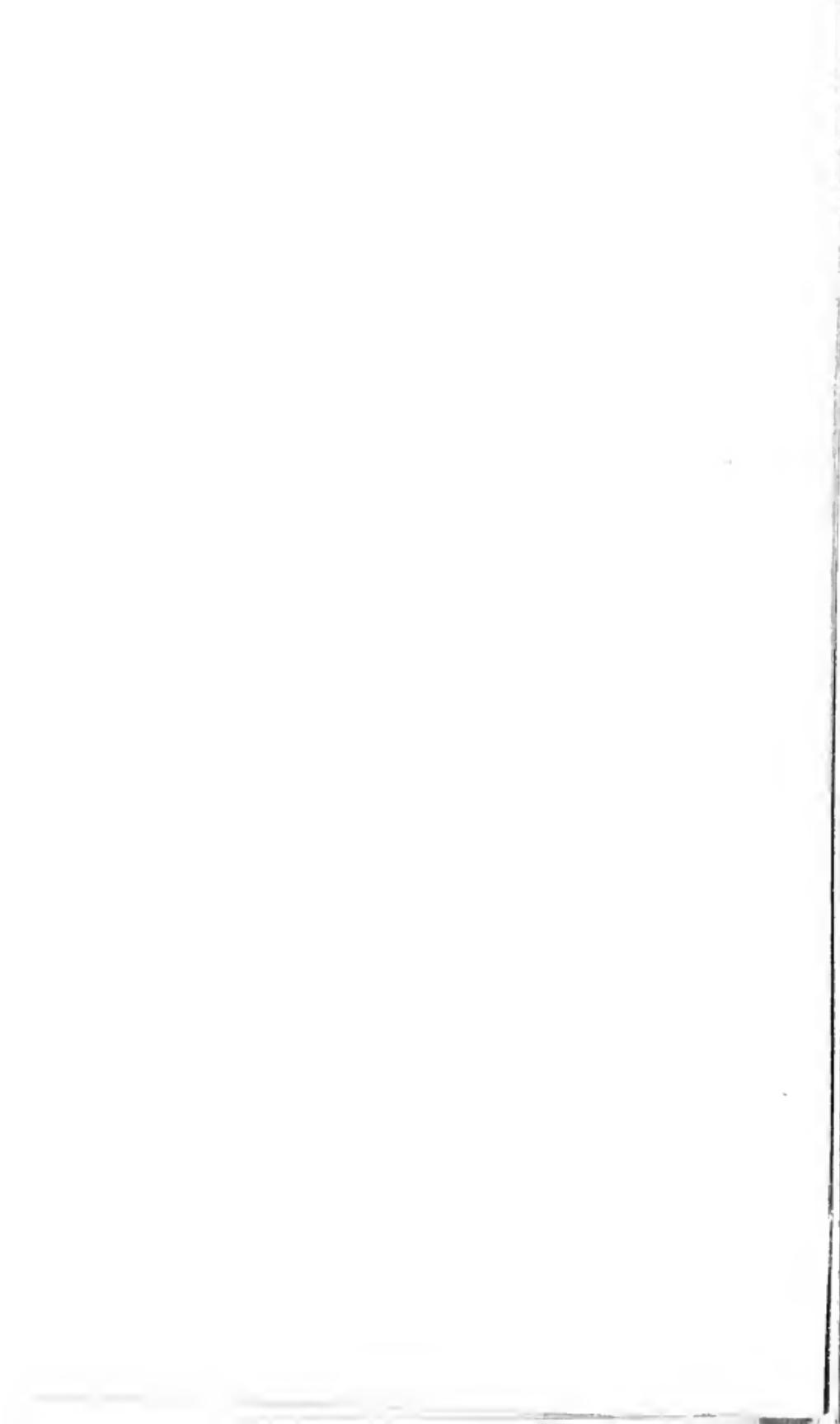
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N. Y. Office, 50 Leonard Street.





















































































































































































































































































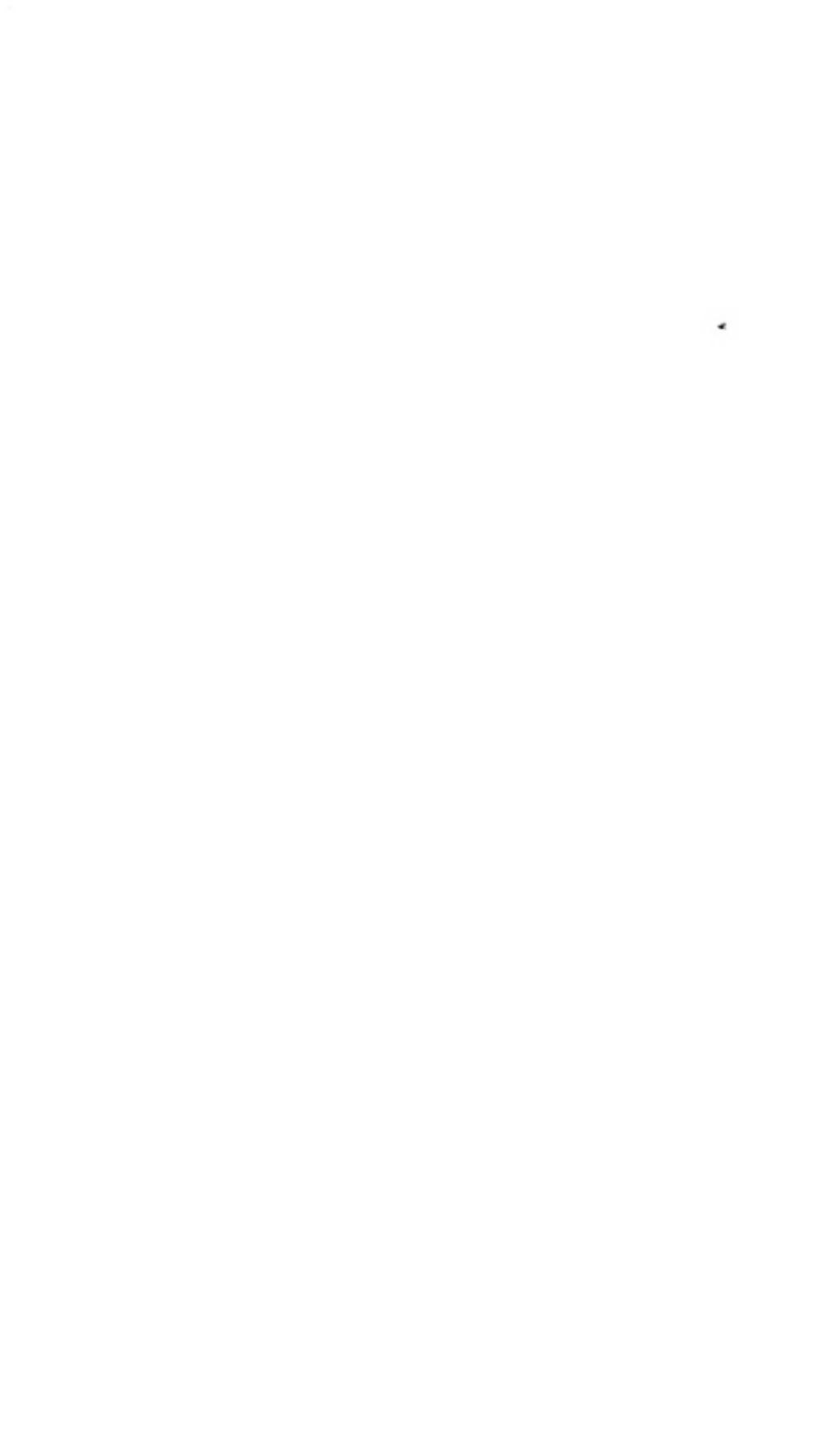








































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